

Community and Social Services

Government Publications

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Do you need General Welfare Assistance?

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Ministry of
and Social
pt.



What it's all about

In illness, unemployment or other misfortune, a person's normal income may disappear. Then the individual or family may need public financial assistance to meet the costs of daily living, or to buy essential items and services.

General Welfare Assistance is designed to cover cases of short-term or temporary financial need. Under the General Welfare Assistance legislation, local municipal governments grant immediate financial assistance, where necessary, to persons and families living in Ontario.

Types of welfare

There are four types of General Welfare Assistance:

1. General Assistance
2. Special Assistance
3. Supplementary Aid
4. Personal Services

General Assistance is a monthly allowance for ordinary living expenses. Special Assistance and Supplementary Aid are amounts for special items and costs. Personal services include counselling and incentive allowances for participants in work training projects.

General Assistance must be given if the person is eligible and in financial need. But Special Assistance, Supplementary Aid, and Personal Services are issued at the discretion of

each municipal welfare administrator, in accordance with local policy.

Who is eligible?

An applicant is eligible for General Welfare Assistance if:

1. he (or she) is in a certain situation
2. he (or she) is in financial need.

Situations

The following people may receive General Welfare Assistance if they are in financial need:

1. a person 16 or older, who is unemployed or partially employed, and who is actively seeking a full-time job.
2. a woman with dependent children who lacks the principal family provider. This may be a woman who is deserted, divorced, widowed, separated, or unwed. She may be employed full time and still be eligible, if she is in financial need.
3. a foster parent, for a foster child.
4. a person 16 or older, who is sick or disabled as certified by a doctor.
5. a person who is elderly. There is no age requirement. He (or she) may be working full-time and still be eligible, if his advanced years are a factor in keeping his income low.
6. a single person or a mother with dependent children who is unemploy-

ed because he (or she) is attending a public or high school.

A person may apply for welfare as long as he (or she) is a resident of the Ontario municipality in which he applies. There are no citizenship or length of residence requirements. A person is a resident when he makes his home, or intends to make his home, in the municipality.

A transient person in financial need may receive meals and lodging in a hostel.

Financial need

A person is in financial need if he does not have enough money to pay his expenses, as defined in the legislation.

There are two things to consider: liquid assets,



and income.

Liquid assets are those assets which are owned by the person or spouse and which can readily be converted into cash, such as money in the bank, bonds, or property. Everyday belongings, and the house a person owns and lives in, are not classed as liquid assets for the purposes of

General Welfare Assistance.

The municipal welfare administrator will determine if the person has sufficient assets to meet his own needs.

The second thing to consider is monthly income. Certain sources of income, such as casual gifts, Family Allowances, and earnings by dependents attending school, are not classed as income for the purposes of welfare. If any part of income comes from lodgers or boarders, exemptions are given to allow for the cost of earning such income.

If the person or spouse has a job, a certain part of the gross job earnings may be left out of the calculation of income, to encourage the person to work. This exemption may be \$24 a month (plus \$12 a month for each dependent) plus one-fourth of the amount of money earned in excess of this amount.

Expenses

A person's expenses or "budgetary need" under the legislation, are calculated according to the size of the family, the ages of the children, and the amount of money needed for expenses, up to a maximum.

Budgetary need, for a General Assistance allowance, consists of expenses for food, clothing, personal

needs, household supplies, utilities, shelter, and fuel.

What do you get?

A person qualifies financially for a General Assistance allowance if his budgetary need exceeds his income.

The amount of his allowance will be the difference between his budgetary need and his income, up to a maximum.

For example, the maximum amount a family of four may receive from General Assistance is \$330 a month. This maximum is increased by a further \$15 a month for each additional dependent.

Special Assistance

This is money for special items beyond day-to-day living expenses. A person may qualify financially for Special Assistance even if he does not qualify for a General Assistance allowance, or other government financial aid.

Special Assistance may pay for the cost of:

- moving
- prescribed drugs
- surgical supplies
- dental services
- optical services
- prosthetic appliances (including eyeglasses)
- vocational training
- necessary transportation (other than ambulance)
- funerals and burials
- \$25 per month comfort allowance for people in nursing homes

- any other item approved by the Ontario Director of Municipal Welfare Administration.

Supplementary Aid

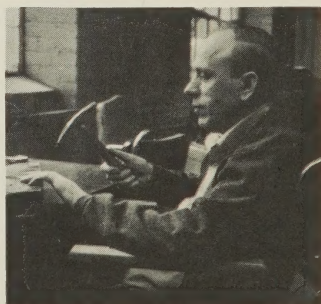
This is extra money for people who are already receiving Family Benefits, Old Age Security, or a training allowance from Ontario Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

It covers costs of the special items listed above under Special Assistance, and also covers extra shelter costs, such as high rent or necessary home repairs.

Municipalities can give up to \$20 per month in Supplementary Aid, for each person in a family who receives one of the above extra items, and who is a beneficiary under the governmental allowance. If an item costs more than \$20, the municipality may pay the additional amount with Special Assistance.

People in special homes

Anyone needing nursing home care, who can't pay the cost, may qualify for



General Welfare Assistance. The municipality will pay the amount of the per diem rate that the person can't afford, up to the maximum allowed under the legislation. It also may give the person a \$25 per month comfort allowance, as an item of Special Assistance. The person may also qualify for Special Assistance for costs of prescription drugs, etc.

Residents of other institutions are not eligible for General Welfare Assistance.

To apply

For further information, or to apply for General Welfare Assistance, get in touch with your nearest municipal social service or welfare office. In the unorganized territory in Northern Ontario, you should apply to a Regional Office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, listed at the back.

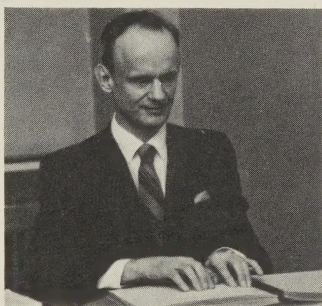
To be eligible, you must be a single person or the head of a family (you will get welfare for yourself and your dependents). A caseworker will explain the procedure, assist you in filling out forms, and visit you in your home.

You can appeal

If you feel that you are entitled to a General Assistance allowance, but you are refused for some reason that you don't

understand or agree with, or if you believe that your allowance is less than you are entitled to, you can request a hearing from the Ontario Board of Review by writing to:

Chairman,
Board of Review,
Room MI-57,
Ministry of Community and Social Services,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario



However, you cannot appeal decisions regarding Special Assistance or Supplementary Aid.

Other services

Many municipalities, with the assistance of provincial subsidies, provide services such as day care for children, nurses and home-makers services, and individual or family counselling. The municipality may pay part or all of the cost of these services, if the person cannot afford them.

The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services provides other services to Ontario residents, such as Family

Benefits and vocational rehabilitation services. Family Benefits is a living allowance for mothers raising children alone, unemployable fathers, disabled people, elderly people, and foster parents, who will need financial assistance for an extended period of time.

To find out more about these programs, contact a Regional Office of the Ministry, listed on the back. They can also give you information about day care, child welfare, legal aid, and residences and programs for the elderly and for mentally or physically handicapped children and adults.

How welfare happens

General Welfare Assistance is given out by the welfare administrator of the city, town, village, or township. On Indian Reserves, where the Band Council has been approved for the purpose, a welfare administrator performs the same service.

In Southern Ontario, some County Councils administer the welfare service for all the municipalities in the county. In the North, most of the municipalities give service through a District Welfare Board.

In the municipally unorganized areas of the North, five Regional Offices of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services administer General Welfare Assistance.

Municipalities grant the various kinds of welfare following the regulations set forth in The General Welfare Assistance Act, and other provincial statutes.

The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services supervises the municipal administration of welfare. This supervision includes setting policy guidelines, investigating appeals, and assisting municipalities in organization and services.

The Ministry reimburses municipalities for 80% of General Assistance costs, 80% of Supplementary Aid costs, and 50% of Special Assistance costs. There are also provincial subsidies designed to maintain and improve standards of administration, by paying for administrative costs of staff salaries, travelling expenses, and related costs. Subsidies for the costs of staff training are also available, to encourage the development of trained social service staff.

For more information

Further information on anything mentioned in this

pamphlet can be obtained from:

Communications Branch,
Ministry of Community and
Social Services,
7th floor, Hepburn Block,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO, Ontario.

Where to go to apply for help

ALEXANDRIA

28 Main St. 525-3524

ARMSTRONG

Lands and Forests District
Bldg. Armstrong 20

BANCROFT

Hastings Centennial Manor
Lot 2, Concession "A"
Box 99. 332-3410

BARRIE

110 Dunlop St. E.
Box 218. 726-8250

BELLEVILLE

Room 2, 14 Bridge St. W.
Box 816. 968-3506

BRACEBRIDGE

Box 838, Court House
645-2991

BRAMPTON

Ste. 506, 24 Queen St. E.
459-7135

BRANTFORD

100 Wellington Sq. 756-5790

BROCKVILLE

51 King St. E. 345-1200

CHATHAM

Weymar Building
48-Fifth St.
Box 685. 352-5040

COCHRANE

171 Fourth St.
Box 1498. 272-4846

COLLINGWOOD

144 Hurontario St.
445-4461

CORNWALL

132 Second St. E.
Box 1358. 932-3381



DRYDEN

32 King St.
Box 490. 223-2241

FORT FRANCIS

240 Scott St.
Box 760. 274-9847

GALT

63 Ainslie St. N. 623-1230

GERALDTON

Office Nò. 1, 1411 Main St.
Box 1029. 854-1840

GUELPH

5 Douglas St.
Gummer Bldg. 822-7500

HAILEYBURY

Court House
Box 218. 672-3501

HAMILTON

Ste. 525, 135 James St. S.
Box 870. 528-9884

HEARST

621 Front St.
Box 1348. 362-4238

KEEWATIN

104 Government Rd.
Box 429. 547-2801

KINGSTON

797 Princess St.
Box 970. 544-6206

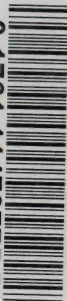
KIRKLAND LAKE

44 Prospect Ave.
Box 398. 567-3391

LEAMINGTON

38 Erie St. N.
Box 127. 326-2511

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LINDSAY
Ontario Government Bldg.
324-6121 Ext. 51
LONDON
764 Dundas St. E.
433-2821

MOOSONEE
First St. Box 160. 336-2905

NORTH BAY
Ste. 408, 222 McIntyre St. W.
Box 327. 474-3540

OAKVILLE
345 Lakeshore Blvd. E.
844-1221
OSHAWA

200 John St. W. 576-9001
OTTAWA
2197 East Riverside Dr.
Pebb Bldg. 737-5520
OWEN SOUND
347 Ninth St. E. 376-1951

PARRY SOUND
8A Sequin St.
Box 305. 746-8534
PEMBROKE
207 Renfrew St. 732-2631
PERTH
Sunset Blvd.
P.O. Box 111. 267-2504
PETERBOROUGH
139 George St. N. 742-9292

RED LAKE
Ontario Government Bldg.
Box 827. 727-2174
RENFREW
315 Raglan St. S. 432-4809

SARNIA
700 North Christina St.
Room 207. 344-1651
SAULT STE. MARIE
123 March St.
P.O. Box 68. 256-5666
SHELBURNE
115 Shelburne St.
Box 36. 925-3319

SIMCOE
Norfolk County Bldg.
R.R. 1. 426-9350
SIOUX LOOKOUT
110 Front St.
Box 338. 737-3813
SOUTH RIVER
266 Ottawa St.
Box 161. 386-2571
ST. CATHARINES
15 Church St.
Box 176. 685-8423
STRATFORD
380 Hibernia St. 271-1530
STURGEON FALLS
Drawer 160, Main St.
753-1611
ST. THOMAS
Ste. 2, 300 Talbot St.
631-3032
SUDBURY
127 Cedar St.
Drawer 1120
674-3151 Ext. 271

THUNDER BAY
1111 Victoria Ave.
622-3934
TIMMINS
96 Balsam St. S.
Box 612. 264-9407
TORONTO
110 Eglinton Ave. W.
487-4392

WATERLOO
75 King St. S., 5th Floor
Waterloo Square. 579-3130
WINDSOR
374 Ouellette Ave.
254-9231
WINGHAM
Box 510. 357-3370

The Honourable Rene Brunelle,
Minister

M. Borczak,
Deputy Minister